

A TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL  
KATHLEEN K. PAIGE

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize the service of an outstanding leader in our Nation's Armed Forces. After more than 34 years in uniform, Rear Admiral Kathleen K. Paige will soon retire from the United States Navy and move on to private life.

Admiral Paige's sustained, superb service culminated in a series of highly challenging senior assignments where she demonstrated dedication to one primary goal: providing highly effective military capabilities to warfighters.

Her first Flag assignment was as Commander, Naval Surface Warfare Center in July 1996. Two years later, she assumed duties as Director, Theater Air and Missile Defense and Systems Engineering in the Program Executive Office for Theater Surface Combatants. Then, in April 1999, she was given the additional concurrent assignment as the first Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research, Development & Acquisition) Chief Engineer—the Navy's senior technical authority for development of system and technical architectures. Because of her extraordinary talent and expertise in complex systems, in July 2001, the Missile Defense Agency selected her to be the first Ballistic Missile Defense System Technical Director in charge of integrating the engineering development of all the systems comprising the missile defense program.

Since August 2002, Admiral Paige has also served as the Navy's senior Engineering Duty Officer—nurturing the engineering community's rich heritage of scientific fact-finding and integrated, top-down engineering to ensure continuous innovation. At the same time, she made certain that the Navy remained anchored to fundamental operational realities.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere congratulations to the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan as they celebrate the 14th anniversary of their Independence from the Soviet Union. On October 18, 1991, Azerbaijan adopted its Constitutional Act on Independence declaring their independence as a sovereign state.

Having lived under Soviet rule, the people of Azerbaijan have a great appreciation of living in a democratic civil society and understand that they need to continue to democratize and hold free and fair elections in order to develop and integrate into western structures.

On November 6, 2005, Azerbaijan will hold important parliamentary elections. As a sign of his commitment to ensuring free and fair elections, President Ilham Aliyev issued an Executive Order earlier this year outlining important steps that will be taken prior to the election. Since then great progress has been made to:

allow all political parties to organize rallies free from violence and intimidation, welcome domestic and international election observers, provide appropriate access to media, and ensure central and regional authorities create the necessary conditions for exit polls.

Azerbaijan has come forward as a strong strategic partner and ally not only to the United States but also among the democratic societies in our world. I congratulate Azerbaijan on this important day and look forward to them having free and fair elections next month.

IN RECOGNITION OF FORMER TAIWANESE PRESIDENT LEE TENG-HUI

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui to Washington, DC.

President Lee Teng-Hui is truly a founding father of democracy. As president of Taiwan from 1988 to 2000, Mr. Lee Teng-Hui helped Taiwan develop into the strong democracy it is today. Today, Taiwan is a vital, growing democracy committed to the universal principles of human freedom and dignity. I am certain that President Lee Teng-Hui's visits to the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall and his viewing of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence has only deepened his appreciation of America's struggle for democracy.

It is my hope that one day there will be open dialogue between high level officials in the United States and in Taiwan for the development of democracy beyond our two countries and around the world.

CONGRATULATING RANDY EVANS  
AND RANDY EVANS CONSTRUCTION  
FOR WINNING THE SEORC  
BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Randy Evans, with effort and desire, started Randy Evans Construction and has made it a significant competitor in the Jackson area construction business; and

Whereas, Randy Evans and Randy Evans Construction have helped shape the Jackson area community; and

Whereas, Randy Evans' commitment to perfection, perseverance and fortitude are an inspiration to everyone in Jackson County and beyond.

Therefore, I join with family, friends and the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Randy Evans and Randy Evans Construction for winning this prestigious award.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COURT, OFFENDER SUPERVISION,  
PAROLE AND PUBLIC DEFENDER  
EMPLOYEES EQUITY ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today Chairman TOM DAVIS and I introduce a bill that will correct a long overdue oversight affecting the non-judicial employees of the D.C. Courts, the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), and the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS).

Under the 1997 National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government took over the operation of the District of Columbia Courts and related services making the non-judicial employees of the D.C. Courts and the employees of CSOSA federal employees. In 1998, employees of PDS were similarly transferred as part of the District of Columbia Courts and Justice Technical Collections Act. As federal employees, these Court, CSOSA and PDS employees were brought under the federal retirement program (FERS). However, for the employees transferred in 1997 and in 1998, "creditable service" for the purposes of determining when they would be eligible to retire and the amount of annuity they would be entitled to under FERS only began from the date of the transfer. That is, the 1997 and 1998 laws made no provision for treating their year of service as Court and related services employees prior to these laws as creditable service for retirement.

Accordingly, the bill we introduced today will amend these laws to require that the time served by these employees before 1997 will count towards their overall federal retirement eligibility as "creditable service". So for example, if an employee is 60 years old today and has worked 20 years (i.e. since 1985) for the D.C. Courts under our bill he would be eligible for federal retirement today (whereas without our bill he would have to work another twelve years).

I should also note that to avoid the problem of "double dipping," since the employees are still entitled to their D.C. retirement benefits (based upon their work status up until 1997), our bill does not count the pre-1997 years spent as D.C. government employees towards the amount of federal retirement annuity an employee is eligible to receive.

However, it is only fair and just that the Court and related services employees who started their jobs with the expectation that would be able to retire without penalty after 20 years of service or more should be allowed to do so. Our bill today does just that, it restores their "lost time."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 19, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the following votes on Monday, October 17th, I would have voted as follows: